

NJIT Pandemic Recovery Plan – Department of Athletics & Physical Education

The Department of Athletics & Physical Education's recovery plan is constructed using the parameters outlined by institutional, regional, state, federal, and NCAA guidelines. The ultimate goal of the plan is to provide an environment that focuses on preventing the spread of the COVID-19 virus through containment strategies such as identification and isolation while also ensuring that social distancing, sanitation and good hygiene practices are daily operational standards in the department. These are complimented by an aggressive educational campaign. The ultimate goal is to provide a safe environment as we progress through the various phases of the recovery.

It is essential that the plan addresses the unique aspects of the department and is comprehensive enough to accommodate our internal and external constituents. The department serves NJIT's student-athletes and athletic staff, students, faculty, alumni & NJIT community, as well as a visiting community (visiting teams, fans, outside event staff and groups.) An additional factor that has to be considered is the extent of travel required by NJIT's athletic teams and staff especially given our membership in the ASUN Conference. Much of this required travel is outside of our region.

Our staff and student athletes within the Department of Athletics, are committed to following all the necessary and recommended protocols for hygiene and safety including the use of PPE and physical distancing. The following guidelines are the strategies to be adopted by the Department of Athletics to ensure that we are aligned with the overall institutional recovery plan as we collectively progress through the respective phases of recovery.

Recovery Phase 0: No in-person operations except for essential staff. Athletics business operations are functioning remotely.

- No activities. All athletic facilities (WEC, Naimoli, Warren Street Fitness Center) are closed.
- Minimal employee visits to office. Must be for essential tasks and must be pre-approved/ pre-scheduled.
- All student-athletes remain off-campus and all team activities are done virtually.
- Procure necessary PPE and sanitizing products
- Educational outreach to staff and student-athletes in anticipation of return
- Begin preliminary remote screening of student-athletes and staff

Recovery Phase 1: Reintroduce in-person operations at a reduced capacity (gatherings must be < 10). A majority of athletics operations will continue to be conducted virtually.

- The facilities remain closed to the general student population and NJIT community
- Require use of PPE, strict social distancing and practice good hygiene. Hand sanitizer dispensers or disinfectant wipes strategically placed throughout the facility.
- All individuals must be screened upon entering the athletic facilities.
- Staggered work schedule for staff authorized to return to campus for work
- Aggressive educational campaign throughout facility

Recovery Phase 2: Increase in-person activities and but they must be done in a reduced capacity (<50) with social distancing & personal hygiene measures.

- The facilities remain closed to the general student population, but are opened to authorized athletic staff and student-athletes.
- All athletic activities are designed to satisfy social distancing requirements
- PPE necessary and hand sanitizer dispensers or disinfectant wipes are strategically located
- All individuals must be screened upon entering the athletic facilities
- Staggered work schedule for staff and ensure that vulnerable population continue to work virtually.
- If classes are in-person, collegiate athletics activities will resume (practice)
- Locker rooms, weight room, and fitness center remain closed

Recovery Phase 3: Operations resume with no staffing restrictions. Encourage social distancing and minimize time spent in crowded

- Regular athletic activities resume while continuing to practice social distancing measures Restrict fan access to competitions
- Strategic scheduling of team practices to reduce density.
- Locker rooms, weight room, and fitness center may reopen as long as they can be properly sanitized
- PPE use advised and hand sanitizer dispensers or disinfectant wipes are strategically located
- Vulnerable population can return but social distancing is necessary
- All other state or university safety protocols must be strictly followed.

Full Recovery: All operations are fully restored with no specific social distancing requirements. However, all facility and personnel safety protocols must be strictly observed.

Despite returning to normal, travel for athletic staff and athletes must be closely monitored for possible hot spots.

Resources utilized for the development and ongoing of evolution of the Athletics Department's Pandemic Recovery Plan include:

- New Jersey's COVID-19 information hub <https://covid19.nj.gov/index.html>
- New Jersey's "The Road Back: Restoring Economic Health through Public Health:" <https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562020/approved/20200427b.shtml>
- White House Plan for Opening up America Again: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wpcontent/uploads/2020/04/Guidelines-for-Opening-Up-America-Again.pdf>
- NCAA Sports Science Institute "Core Principles of Resocialization of Collegiate Sport:" <http://www.ncaa.org/sport-science-institute/core-principles-resocialization-collegiate-sport>
- American College Health Association "Consideration for Reopening Institutions of Higher Education in COVID-19 Era:" https://www.acha.org/documents/resources/guidelines/ACHA_Considerations_for_Reopening_IHEs_in_the_COVID-19_Era_May2020.pdf
- NATA Intercollegiate Council for Sports Medicine (ICSM) "Pre-Return and Return-to-Campus Preparation and Communication Plan:" https://www.nata.org/sites/default/files/icsm_return_to_campus_packet_covid19.pdf